

Message Text

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17/14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 196284

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF NOON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 2

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PERTINENT REMARKS CONCERNING CHILE
MADE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT TODAY'S NOON
BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE USE IN ANSWERING
QUESTIONS:

Q: JOHN, WHAT DO YOU HEAR FROM THE EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO --
THAT IS, IS THE SITUATION NOW COMMON? AND DO YOU HAVE ANY
REPORTS FROM THE EMBASSY TO CONFIRM THE PRESS REPORTS THAT
THERE WERE WIDE-SCALE EXECUTIONS, FAR WIDER THAN THE REGIME
IN POWER HAD ACKNOWLEDGED?

A: WELL, I GUESS THE ANSWER TO BOTH QUESTIONS IS THAT WE
DON'T. I GUESS, AT BOTTOM, OUR EMBASSY IS SIMPLY NOT IN A
POSITION TO GET THAT KIND OF INFORMATION. I GUESS YOU'RE
REFERRING TO THE NEWSWEEK STORY YESTERDAY.

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BUT WITH REGARD TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION ABOUT THE SECURITY
SITUATION, I SUPPOSE, JUST OFFHAND, IT SEEMS TO BE
UNCHANGED. THE EMBASSY IS FUNCTIONING; PEOPLE ARE AT WORK.

Q: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ONE QUESTION: SENATOR KENNEDY AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER HAVE INTRODUCED A BILL WHICH ASKS THE PRESIDENT TO BACK THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO TRY TO RELOCATE POLITICAL REFUGEES IN CHILE, AND TRY TO DIMINISH THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION IN THE COUNTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE JUNTA HAS BEEN ANNOUNCING EXECUTIONS -- THIS IS NOT AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT -- THESE ARE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE JUNTA -- AND -- IT SEEMS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CONTINUING MILITARY AID TO CHILE.

MY QUESTION, THE FIRST QUESTION WOULD BE: IS THERE ANY REACTION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THIS BILL INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KENNEDY AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER?

AND SECOND, COULD WE INFER ANYTHING ABOUT THE CONTINUATION OF MILITARY AID TO CHILE? DOES IT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE JUNTA AND THAT POLICY -- AND ESPECIALLY THE EXECUTIONS OF ENEMIES OF THE GOVERNMENT?

A: WELL, I WON'T ACCEPT THE QUESTION THE WAY YOU'VE TIED IT TOGETHER, BUT I DO HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU.

FIRST, OBVIOUSLY, I'M IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON A RESOLUTION WHICH I HAVEN'T SEEN AND I'M NOT SURE THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE DEPARTMENT -- THE ADMINISTRATION -- THE EMBASSY, ARE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE IS SO MUCH VIOLENCE.

I CAN TELL YOU THAT OUR AMBASSADOR HAS TALKED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN SANTIAGO ABOUT THESE MATTERS.

--

THEY HAVE DESCRIBED TO US THE MEASURES THEY ARE TAKING TO INSURE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, AND HOW THEY ARE DOING THIS IN COLLABORATION

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WITH THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

AND WITH RESPECT TO HUMANE TREATMENT FOR DETAINEES, AS YOU KNOW, IN ADDITION TO THE U.N. COMMISSIONER'S OPERATION IN SANTIAGO, THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS BEEN DOWN THERE IN TOUCH WITH AND DEALING WITH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

I TOLD YOU THAT YOU CAN ASSUME THAT OUR CONCERNS HERE HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: JOHN, REGARDING SEQUENCE OF THAT -- WE ARE CONCERNED -- THEY GIVE ASSURANCES -- DO THOSE ASSURANCES RESOLVE OUR CONCERN? OR DOES OUR CONCERN CONTINUE?

A: WELL I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT IT'S A CONTINUING SITUATION. YOU JUST CAN'T DRAW FINE JUDGMENTS AND FINAL JUDGMENTS, AND BE ABSOLUTELY CATEGORIC ABOUT THE SITUATION. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN SANTIAGO HAS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR DAVIS, THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO UPHOLD ALL ITS OBLIGATIONS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT SAYS IT FEELS THIS CONCERN VERY STRONGLY.

Q: JOHN, WHEN THE AMBASSADOR WENT TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, WHAT WAS HE EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT? WHAT TRIGGERED HIS VISIT?

A: I GUESS I CAN'T SAY SPECIFICALLY, BUT THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF DETAINEES HAS BEEN A SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH MUCH DISCUSSION HAS TRANSPRIRED HERE AND THERE -- AND IT WAS ONE OF THE MATTERS THAT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH THEM ABOUT.

Q: BECAUSE HE SAID EARLIER, THAT THE EMBASSY WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM ANY OF THESE REPORTS.

A: WELL, BY SAYING WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU -- BY THE EXPRESSION OF CONCERN WE ARE NOT SAYING THAT WE KNOW, QUANTITATIVELY, THAT SUCH AND SUCH IS GOING ON. I'M NOT SAYING UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT.

I'M SAYING AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, IN A SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE VIOLENCE AND WE HAVE PASSIONS RUNNING HIGH, THIS AUTOMATICALLY COMES TO THE FORE.

Q: JOHN, WAS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT AMERICAN DETAINEES, OR WAS THAT GENERAL, ABOUT ALL OF THEM?

A: WELL CLEARLY, OUR FIRST PRIORITY AT THE OUTSET, WAS THE WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE AMERICAN DETAINEES.

I MIGHT TELL YOU THAT WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE LAST KNOWN DETAINEE -- I DON'T HAVE THE LADY'S NAME, BUT SHE WAS HELD DOWN AT VALDIVIA, AND SHE HAS BEEN RELEASED. UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON MR. HORMAN AND TERRUGGI. WE STILL DON'T KNOW THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

Q: WHEN, AND WITH WHOM, DID AMBASSADOR DAVIS HAVE THE --

A: AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL, ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION.

Q: HAS HE MET THE LEADER OF THE JUNTA, GENERAL PINOCHET?

A: I'M NOT SURE, AS AN ACTUAL MATTER.
BUT YOU KNOW, WE MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH THAT GOVERNMENT
AND IT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF HE HAS MET WITH AND
SPOKEN WITH GENERAL PINOCHET.

Q: NOW YOU HELP ME UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT IT IS, THE
REASON THE UNITED STATES IS CONTINUING TO SUPPLY MILITARY
AID TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. I DO NOT WANT TO INFER,
OR TRY TO -- I WOULD JUST LIKE TO HAVE THE EXPLANATION OF
IT, YOU KNOW.

A: YES.

WELL WE ARE NOT INTERRUPTING THE DELIVERIES ALREADY IN THE
PIPELINE, THAT IS, FOR SUPPLIES CONTRACTED FOR AND AGREED
TO WITH THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THOSE SUPPLIES WILL
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CONTINUE INsofar AS THEY CONSTITUTE MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY
REQUESTED AND AGREED TO -- WHICH WOULD INCLUDE GENERALLY
SPARE PARTS FOR AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES, SOME REPLACEMENT
ENGINES, AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT -- THINGS LIKE HELMET
LINERS AND PONCHOS AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

Q: JOHN, HAVE THE CHILEANS ASKED FOR ANYTHING MORE
MILITARY THAN A PONCHO AT THIS POINT? ARE THEY INTERESTED
IN SOMETHING A LITTLE STIFFER?

A: IT'S A FAIR QUESTION AND I'M TRYING TO ANSWER YOU.
THERE HAVE BEEN REQUESTS, YES, BUT AS I UNDERSTAND IT,
IT'S NOT FOR MAJOR ITEMS OR EQUIPMENT.

Q: WOULD THEY HAVE ASKED FOR HELICOPTERS, FOR EXAMPLE,
AND COMMUNICATIONS MATERIAL?

A: I CAN'T EXCLUDE THAT WITHOUT CONFIRMING IT. AND I
CAN'T EXCLUDE THAT BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW IN DETAIL WHAT
ALL THEY HAVE ASKED FOR. BUT AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION
WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE IN TERMS OF SPARES AND PERSONAL
EQUIPMENT, AND THAT SORT OF THING ARE CONTINUING.

WITH RESPECT TO NEW PROJECTS, NEW SYSTEMS, NEW WEAPONS,
THERE IS NOTHING MAJOR.

Q: JOHN, ON THE F-5 E SITUATION INVOLVED IN CHILE SOME
MONTHS AGO, WHEN WE TOOK THEM OFF THE WAIVER LIST -- HAS
THERE BEEN ANYTHING NEW SINCE THEN? HAVE THERE BEEN ANY
NEGOTIATIONS OR TECHNICAL TALKS GOING ON CONCERNING THEM?

A: I JUST -- I CAN'T REMEMBER WHETHER THEY BOUGHT ANY OR NOT.

Q: MAYBE YOU CAN DRAW ALL THIS TOGETHER AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT THE SITUATION IS, CONCERNING NEW REQUESTS WITH THE F-5 E/S.

A: WELL, THE F-5 E MATTER WENT BACK PRIOR TO THE COUP.

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Q: YES, I KNOW, BUT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE, SINCE THE COUP, WHAT THE SITUATION IS, IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE.

A: WELL, IF THEY WERE PURCHASED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND THEY -- WELL, THEY ARE NOT "SHELF" ITEMS -- WHERE THEY ARE BEING PRODUCED FOR CHILE, THEY ARE IN THE PIPELINE. (NOTE: LATER PRESS INFORMED GOC HAS NOT PURCHASED, ONLY EXPRESSED INTEREST AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTHRUP.)

Q: JOHN, SHALL WE INFER FROM THIS, OR IS IT TOO EARLY TO SAY, THAT THE LEVEL OF WEAPONRY THAT WE WILL SUPPLY THE NEW GOVERNMENT, IS ABOUT THE SAME AS WHAT WE ARE WILLING TO GIVE DR. ALLENDE? NO MORE, NO LESS?

A: I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT WAY, BUT JUST FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS, LET ME TELL YOU THAT IN FISCAL '73, WE HAD AGREED TO FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ON CREDIT OF DOLS 12.4 MILLION -- AND THAT MAY WELL ACCOUNT FOR SOME OF THESE THINGS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE.

Q: ISN'T THAT 7 PERCENT OF THE MILITARY BUDGET OF CHILE? OR MORE?

A: YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE CHILEANS ABOUT THAT.

AND DOLS 850,000.00 FOR TRAINING ASSISTANCE.

Q: JOHN, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A MONETARY QUESTION HERE --

AFTER THE NATIONALIZATION HASSLE AND THE FAILURE TO PAY PROPER COMPENSATION AND THE UNITED STATES REFUSED TO JOIN WITH THE 13 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARIS CLUB IN EXTENDING CHILE'S DEBT -- AND IN RETALIATION CHILE THEN STOPPED MAKING PAYMENTS ON ITS DOLS 1.4 BILLION OWED TO THE UNITED STATES -- HAS THIS REGIME NOW AGREED TO PICK UP THOSE PAYMENTS?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT, BUT -- THAT'S REALLY A SOVEREIGN ACT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THAT I WILL LEAVE TO SANTIAGO. THE

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GOVERNMENT THERE WOULD REALLY HAVE TO SPEAK TO A QUESTION
LIKE THAT. I CAN'T.

Q: WELL, BUT YOU CAN FIND OUT WHETHER THE PAYMENTS ARE
BEING MADE.

A: I STILL WOULD DEFER TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: NOW JOHN, THERE ARE SO MANY OPEN QUESTIONS ON THIS,
WHICH HAVE BEEN OPENED UP BY THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN
CHILE, I WONDER IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR AN OFFICER OF
THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE US A BRIEFING AT SOME TIME IN THE
NEAR FUTURE, ON ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN
OPENED UP:

THE PROPER COMPENSATION -- THE MILITARY AID --

A: I THINK IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY FOR THAT. BUT
OBVIOUSLY, WE'LL KEEP IT IN MIND AND WHEN WE'RE IN A
POSITION TO TALK ABOUT IT, WE WILL.

Q: I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO CLEAR UP SOME OF
THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH SEEM TO BE OCCURRING ON THIS.

A: I CAN'T EVER IMAGINE DOING THAT.

BUT TO GO BACK TO YOUR QUESTION, I HAVE GIVEN YOU THE
FIGURES OF THE MONEYS EARMARKED FOR FISCAL '73, WHICH YOU
WILL HAVE TO ROUGHLY ACCEPT AS PIPELINE. THERE IT IS, IT
CONTINUES, AND I HAVE ALSO SAID THAT I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY
REQUESTS FOR MAJOR NEW ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT.

Q: BUT JOHN, YOU SAY THAT THE SUPPLIES IN THE PIPELINE
WILL CONTINUE.

A: YES.

Q: HAS A DECISION BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE NEW EQUIPMENT AS
REQUESTED, IF IT ISN'T DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH HAS BEEN
PROVIDED IN THE PAST?

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WILL MORE EQUIPMENT GO, AFTER THAT WHICH IS IN THE PIPE-
LINE?

A: OH, WE'LL HAVE TO SEE. I COULDN'T PREDICT --

Q: JOHN, ALL THESE QUESTIONS BOIL DOWN TO ONE, WHICH IS:

ARE WE PREPARED TO TREAT THE PRESENT GANG BETTER THAN WE
DID THE PREVIOUS GANG -- AND THE U.S. HASN'T DECIDED, HAS
IT?

A: WELL, WE JUST HAVEN'T MADE THE DECISIONS ON '74 AND
BEYOND. KISSINGER

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